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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

Vitaly A. LIVSHITS et al.

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

SERIAL NO: 09/459,573

: EXAMINER: STEADMAN, DAVID J.

FILED: DECEMBER 13, 1999

:

FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated December June 18, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-44.

Please add the following claims.

--45. (New) An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and having an ability to produce an L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-proline, L-lysine, and L-glutamic acid, wherein an expression amount of at least one protein selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 10; and